



SACRAMENTO – SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY

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Update for Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee

Requested Action. Provide feedback and direction to staff regarding the Strategic Plan, work groups, public outreach, and special projects (e.g., Executive Fellowship Program).

This is a summary of the October 3, 2011 meeting.

Delta Conservancy Advocacy Role

During the Conservancy's Delta community meetings in August, staff was repeatedly asked to state the Conservancy's position on several Delta issues, primarily its position on the proposed alternative conveyance (i.e., peripheral canal or tunnel) and adequate flow levels in the Delta. Conservancy staff answered that the Conservancy's position is one of neutrality, since our enabling legislation does not specify we are to address those issues. Few in the audiences found that answer satisfying, and staff approached the subcommittee for guidance at the September 12, 2011, meeting asking the following questions: What, if any, is the appropriate advocacy role for the Conservancy? How would we go about developing policy positions?

Following subcommittee recommendations staff drafted guiding principles to help staff determine when to elevate a response to the subcommittee and full board for a formal position. These principles modeled those in the Interim Strategic Plan and were informed by the principles provided by the Delta Counties Coalition and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. In its October 3, 2011, the subcommittee commented on the principles and suggested changes.

Since the October 3 meeting, the Legislative Subcommittee made additional suggestions to the guiding principles. Attachment 8.1A shows a comparison of the two versions.

Meeting Date Change

The subcommittee agreed to change its meeting date and time to the second Monday of the month, from 3 to 5 p.m., beginning in January 2012.

Strategic Plan

Consultants Mike Harty and Evan Paul (from Kearns and West, Inc.) and Barbara McDonnell (from MWH) provided an overview of the strategic plan process to the subcommittee. They proposed an 8-month "hour-glass" approach that begins and ends with broad-based public participation and intense work by staff and consultants in the middle.

The consultants' approach, building upon the work in the Conservancy's interim strategic plan, includes scenario planning; in this approach the consultants will develop at least three possible futures that the Conservancy may encounter, with a mixture of variables such as the water bond (enacted or not enacted), canal (or no canal), regulatory changes, etc.

The role of the subcommittee in developing the strategic plan was described as (1) receiving status reports, (2) serving as a sounding board prior to public meetings, and (3) participating in work sessions as the process drills down into details on specific topics.

For efficient project management, all comments or suggestions regarding the strategic plan need to go through Campbell Ingram or Nancy Ullrey of the Conservancy. This will help to keep the costs down and ensure effective coordination.

Subcommittee members were asked to provide staff with the names of five key people for initial interviews with the consultants. They were also asked to let staff know of any events or regular meetings that would provide a "ready-made" opportunity for the Conservancy to bring its strategic plan process to Delta groups or residents.

Outreach Meetings

Conservancy staff presented information to the Subcommittee regarding the questions and comments that were brought up during the August Delta Community Outreach meetings. In particular, the Subcommittee addressed the question about defining the Conservancy's advocacy role (see above).

The Subcommittee also discussed the need for the Conservancy to distinguish itself from the other entities involved in the Delta; this will also assist in drawing the "bright line" between what the Conservancy needs to accomplish and links to other initiatives. Conservancy staff will follow up on the suggestion to provide a graphic presentation of the "silos" regarding state entities in the Delta.

There was a consensus that the Conservancy needs to continue its outreach efforts by meeting Delta residents on their own ground, and that building trust between the Conservancy and all the other entities—including Delta residents—will take time.

Executive Fellows Program

The Conservancy was selected by the CSU-Sacramento Executive Fellows Program to be the subject of a group project by six of this year's executive fellows. Conservancy staff and Executive Fellows staff developed an initial idea and work plan.

The project will require the six fellows to investigate law enforcement issues in the Delta related to public access to lands adjacent to private property and from increased recreation and tourist use of Delta lands, such as levees. The project will assess current conditions, current needs, projected future needs, and mechanisms for enhanced enforcement and funding. A final report

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and presentation to the Board are expected in May 2012, and will include policy recommendations.

The Subcommittee provided direction to staff regarding who the fellows should contact (e.g., county and state parks, reclamation districts, and county farm bureaus) in addition to county sheriffs. The Subcommittee also requested to be kept informed throughout the project to provide feedback and comment regarding the students' research and report.

Attachments

Attachment 8.1A: Comparison of Advocacy Role Guidelines
Attachment 8.1B: August Community Meetings' Questions and Answers
Attachment 8.1C: Executive Fellows Proposal Memo

Contact

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Attachment 8.1A Comparison of Advocacy Role Guidelines

Draft Suggested Guidelines for Advocacy by Conservancy

–Not reviewed or approved by the Delta Conservancy Board

Suggested changes from the Legislative Subcommittee are in strikeout and underlined text.

In the exercise of its authority under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act, the Delta Conservancy in its discretion may adopt policy positions on issues concerning the Delta. Although such advocacy positions will be developed on a case by case, issue by issue basis, the Delta Conservancy will use the following principles to guide how, when, and whether it will be appropriate for it to have a role or to make a policy statement regarding issues affecting its ability to carry out its mandates.

1. The issue meets the following criteria:
 - a. Is clearly within the Conservancy's statutory mandates; or
 - b. Impacts the Conservancy's ability to effectively meet its mission and mandates.
2. The ~~response~~ official position is based on sound, empirical information (e.g., scientific or fiscal information) and has been subject to a thorough analysis by staff.
3. The response is developed in an open forum that provides an equal opportunity for all Board Members, Agency Liaisons, and the public to participate to garner the widest possible range of viewpoints. This does not preclude Conservancy staff from gathering and providing information to legislators and their staffs.
 - a. The Conservancy sees itself as having a significant role in gathering and sharing information that could affect its ability to effectively meet its mandates and mission with a broad spectrum of stakeholders.
4. The response balances the need to be inclusive with the need to be decisive, and keeping in mind the Conservancy's co-equal responsibilities of ecosystem restoration and economic development.

5. The response will reflect the Conservancy's culture of working collaboratively with others to develop cooperative solutions and valuing the diversity of all communities that care about the Delta.

Attachment 8.1B August Community Meetings' Questions & Answers

August Community Meetings' Questions & Answers

In August 2011, Delta Conservancy staff met with residents, farmers and business owners in a series of Community Meetings to introduce the Conservancy to the community and listen to community member ideas about how the conservancy can best serve the region.

For the benefit of those unable to attend, we've summarized the questions and comments made by community members and provided our responses. Conservancy staff looks forward to receiving more ideas and concerns during the strategic planning workshops later this fall.

(Original comments as recorded in each meeting are available online: Isleton, August 3; Bethel Island, August 11; and Clarksburg, August 16).

Questions and comments are grouped in the following categories:

Water

About the Delta Conservancy

Economic Development

Resilience to Floods and Natural Disasters

Ecosystem and the Environment

Political Strategies

Other

Water (20 questions/comments)

- **One of the most consistent concerns expressed at the Community Meetings by the Delta residents was that of maintaining an adequate water supply in the Delta; twenty questions and comments were made. Residents, farmers and business owners wanted to know, "How can the Delta Conservancy help to ensure an adequate water supply is maintained in the Delta?"**

The Conservancy understands the importance of an adequate water supply to the livelihood of Delta residents and the health of the Delta ecosystem. However, the issue of water exports and a conveyance facility is not within the purview of the Conservancy and we are unable to advocate for either side of the issue. Beyond the issues of water flows and conveyance there are many other areas of concern in the Delta where the Conservancy has a role to play and can provide meaningful assistance.

- **Can the Conservancy advocate for more flow through the Delta and wouldn't that be consistent with your mandate to restore ecosystems?**

As a lead state agency to implement ecosystem restoration in the Delta, the Conservancy acknowledges that flow is a major environmental driver that ultimately shapes ecological processes, habitat, and biotic composition in the Delta. The Conservancy supports the draft policies of the Delta Stewardship Council that call for the State Water Resources Control Board to develop and implement new and updated flow requirements for the Delta and high-priority tributaries; the Delta Reform Act requires the SWRCB to do this (see Water Code 85086).

About the Delta Conservancy (17 questions/comments)

- **What is the Delta Conservancy's Strategic Plan and how will it be used? How will you ensure it represents the Delta community?**

The strategic plan will be the "guidebook" that will help evaluate and prioritize potential programs and projects. It will contain criteria to help determine if a project meets multiple objectives (i.e. economic development, ecosystem restoration, etc.) and is feasible given current funding and staffing resources. The plan will also contain performance metrics to help evaluate progress toward objectives and ensure programs and projects are heading to a successful completion.

The strategic plan will be developed with extensive input from Delta stakeholders to ensure it is relevant to the needs of and reflects the perspective of the Delta communities. Stakeholder input is critical to the success of the Delta Conservancy. The strategic plan must reflect the Conservancy's role as an advocate for Delta communities and the Delta as a resource.

- **Describe how the Conservancy was developed. How long will the Conservancy be here? How is it funded?**

The water legislation of 2009 (Delta Reform Act or SBX7 1) contains the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act which called for the permanent establishment of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy). The Delta Conservancy was officially established on February 3, 2010. The Delta Conservancy is a state agency and part of the California Natural Resources Agency, as are all California state conservancies (i.e. Sierra-Nevada Conservancy, Tahoe Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy, etc.).

The Delta Conservancy is funded primarily through the State's General Fund. Currently, funding is very limited and essentially covers the cost of salaries for 7 permanent employees and minimal operational costs. The Delta Conservancy is currently exploring numerous potential opportunities to increase its funding for projects. These opportunities include; grants, special funds, and bond funding.

- **How are the Delta Conservancy, Delta Protection Commission and the Delta Stewardship Council related to each other? How will they work together?**
- **What is Conservancy's role regarding restoration and economic development with the other agencies?**

The Delta Conservancy, Delta Protection Commission (DPC), and Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) are related to each other through the Delta Reform Act of 2009 which created the DSC and the Delta Conservancy and restructured the DPC.

The DSC's primary role is to plan for the future of the Delta. The ultimate goals of its "Delta Plan" are to protect and enhance the Delta ecosystem as well as to ensure a reliable water supply for the state. The Delta Plan will define, approve and guide all "covered actions" and activities in the Delta. ("covered actions" are described in Water Code sections 85022 – 85225.10(a); and in the draft Delta Plan, Chapter 3 "Governance: Implementation of the Delta Plan", pp. 53-62)

The DPC is tasked with developing the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP). The ESP will be submitted to the DSC for consideration and incorporation in the Delta Plan to guide actions that support the economic future of the Delta.

The Delta Conservancy serves as an implementing entity for the ecosystem restoration portion of the Delta Plan and will also implement economic development projects in coordination with the DPC and its Economic Sustainability Plan. The Conservancy will work closely with the Delta community and numerous private, local, regional, state and federal partners to meet the local and regional needs.

- **Regarding the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP)—what projects would not be considered, and which of [your] two goals has priority?**
- **What will the future regulatory environment look like?**

The Conservancy has been reviewing and providing comments on ESP draft versions, and will continue to work with the Delta Protection Commission on this and other activities. Regarding what projects would not—or would—be considered by the Conservancy will be determined by criteria established in the strategic plan. Delta Residents can directly influence the kinds of projects the Conservancy will support by participating in the upcoming strategic plan process.

As for which of our two co-equal mandates would take priority, our answer is, neither. As much as possible, there will be elements of ecosystem restoration in economic development projects and elements of economic development in ecosystem restoration projects. The Conservancy is committed to accomplish its mandates as equitably as possible—both in type and geographic distribution.

The future of the regulatory environment is as hazy to the Conservancy as it is to anyone else. The Conservancy is not a regulatory agency and is subject to applicable laws and regulations, as are all other entities in the Delta.

- **What happens to the Delta Conservancy if it doesn't meet its objectives in the next two years?**

In its first year, the Delta Conservancy has met or has begun to undertake many of its mandated objectives. These objectives include; 1) hiring an Executive Officer (March 2011); 2) developing a Strategic Plan (interim plan completed February 2011, final strategic plan to be completed March 2012) and 3) convening Board meetings within the legal Delta (starting in June 2010). The Delta Conservancy is committed to maintaining this level of accomplishment especially in meeting its 12 objectives through its programs and projects. Currently, the Delta Conservancy is aggressively seeking opportunities for funding to begin implementing projects and is also developing its grants program to provide local assistance grants. The Delta Conservancy was created by the legislature with no prescribed sunset or duration language within the statute.

- **Is the Conservancy taking over the Big Tent effort?**

The Delta Conservancy is incorporating the efforts previously known as the "Big Tent" into its Strategic Plan and subsequent work plans. The Big Tent Project's goal was to compile data on existing restoration projects in the Delta into a centralized database which would then be used to develop a "blue print" for future restoration in the Delta. The Conservancy is now responsible for the long-term storage of the data and can provide access to the information as needed. We anticipate that our Strategic Plan will provide a high-level blue print for how restoration is to be implemented in the Delta.

- **Does Conservancy have power to condemn property?**

No, per Public Resources Code 32370 the Delta Conservancy may not exercise the power of eminent domain.

The Delta Conservancy may be approached in the future to take over the long-term ownership, maintenance and restoration of lands that were acquired through eminent domain. During the development of its strategic plan, which is occurring now, the Delta Conservancy's Board, its management and key Delta stakeholders will fully discuss this issue and determine the best course of action for the Conservancy moving forward. If this interests you, check meeting dates for the Land Ownership and Best Management Practices Workgroup or contact Conservancy staff, 916-375-2084.

- **Avoid scheduling workshops during harvest (August, September, October). People in Delta work day and night and are very time constrained. Can you commit to convening workshops and workgroups in the evenings and weekends?**
- **All elements of mandates intersect in the Delta; you need to come to us, not ask us to come to you.**

The Delta Conservancy is committed to engaging its local partners and Delta stakeholders in its programs and strategic planning efforts. Conservancy staff are available to meet individually with stakeholders; are able to hold evening and weekend meetings in the Delta; will speak before appropriate organizations and associations representing Delta interests; and will attend Delta-related events.

- **Are you aware of other State Conservancies that are funded by fees?**

Currently, there are no State Conservancies funded by fees. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy levies fees for use of some of its lands for private purposes (i.e. filming movies, weddings). Funding from these fees is used to support ongoing Conservancy activities, but is not a primary source of funding.

Economic Development (10 questions/comments)

- **Is there funding for start-up businesses in the Delta?**

Although the Conservancy does not currently provide funding for start-up businesses there are several organizations (public and private) that do, provided that certain criterion are met. The Conservancy's staff would be happy to provide assistance in identifying and/or applying for available funding.

- **Describe/define economic development (i.e. gas stations, Macys, etc.)**

The most widely accepted definition of "economic development" is the concerted effort of policy makers and communities to increase or improve the standard of living and economic health in a specific region.

Through our Strategic Plan process the Conservancy will define what its goals and objectives are regarding economic development in the Delta. Relying on input from Delta residents and stakeholders, the Conservancy will shape its economic development program, identifying milestones and performance measures to track progress and align programs with other Delta economic development efforts.

- **Please define "promoting Delta legacy communities".**

One of the Conservancy's mandates is to "promote Delta legacy communities," defined as Locke, Bethel Island, Clarksburg, Courtland, Freeport, Hood, Isleton, Knightson, Rio Vista, Ryde, and Walnut Grove. We anticipate that the form of "promoting Delta legacy communities," will result from working with legacy community leaders through our strategic plan process to define the Conservancy's role, objectives, strategies and programs.

- **What priorities does the Conservancy have for the boating industry? Boating is key to the economy in the Delta and there are a lot of factors against it right now. We need to get the middle class and young people back into boating; it's not just a rich person's hobby.**
- **What can the Conservancy do about boat launch upkeep?**

The Delta Protection Commission's draft Economic Sustainability Plan recognizes the Delta's main economic drivers as agriculture, recreation and tourism. Boating plays an integral role in the recreation and tourism industry in the Delta.

Participation of people with boating interests in the strategic plan process is crucial in establishing priorities and helping to shape the Conservancy's role, objectives, strategies and programs to support the recreation and tourism industry.

- **Will we be creating buffer zones to protect traditional agriculture?**
- **Will Conservancy be an advocate for agriculture protection programs? (e.g. subventions, Williamson Act) If not, why not?**
- **Utopian; can't open levees to fishermen because of trash, fire pits. Families picnic in crop fields and we've had to block off levees. Who will be the traffic cop?**
- **Agriculture, Recreation and Tourism are not equal; there are tremendous conflicts. Agriculture is foremost.(Clarksburg)**
- **Environmental always seems to win out in conflicts between environment and economic.**

The Conservancy has committed to implementing a balanced program: Balanced amongst our mandates, balanced geographically, and balanced amongst competing interests. The Conservancy is tasked with several mandates; among them are:

"Protect and preserve Delta agriculture and working landscapes",
and "Provide increased opportunities for recreation and tourism".

The Conservancy recognizes that there may be conflicts between agriculture and recreation and will strive to seek the least disruptive alternatives and provide mitigation when feasible. We anticipate hearing from residents and reviewing specific concerns through our strategic plan process so that we can establish guidelines that will address local needs

Resilience to Floods and Natural Disasters (5 questions/comments)

- **What about flood insurance or natural disaster assistance?**
- **A recommendation was made that the Conservancy help get flyers in flood insurance envelopes with suggestions on how to help our neighbors during a flood.**
- **Someone needs to get the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on our side—it's just one door that needs to be opened.**

One of the Conservancy's mandates is to increase the resilience of the Delta to the effects of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes and as projects are identified and funding is available, the Conservancy will assist with projects that meet this mandate.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working with the Department of Water Resources on the Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study (Delta Study) to address ecosystem restoration needs and flood risk management problems in the Delta. The Conservancy is participating in the agency coordination meetings for the Delta Study.

- **Subventions money is needed to fix levees.**

The Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program is a cost share program that provides technical and financial assistance to local agencies in the Delta for the maintenance and rehabilitation of non-project and eligible project levees. The Subventions Program is authorized by California Water Code Sections 12980 et seq., and is managed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Currently, the Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program is part of FloodSAFE California, which is a system-wide initiative for achieving sustainable flood risk management. FloodSAFE California is sustained by funds from The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) and Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1E) approved by the California voters in November 2006.

DWR intends to make \$12 million available to the Subventions Program for fiscal year 2011-2012. However, state budget uncertainties may impact the availability of funds.

- **General question concerning levee standards in the Delta.**

The Conservancy has a role to play in increasing the resilience of the Delta to floods and is working to identify ways to assist with this effort. Below are the four main applicable levee standards for the Delta, which differ depending on the degree of protection provided or eligibility for funding.

♦ **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Guidance:** To be eligible for FEMA disaster grants and assistance after levee failures and island inundation, local communities must prepare an HMP and maintain their levees in accordance with the plan.

♦ **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Law 84-99 (PL 84-99):** Meeting this standard allows the Delta island or tract to be eligible for USACE funding for levee rehabilitation and island restoration after levee failures and island inundation, provided that the reclamation district applies for and is accepted into the program and passes a rigorous initial inspection and periodic follow-up inspections. Eligibility for PL 84-99 was formerly based primarily on levee geometry with minimum freeboard and maximum steepness of slopes. The new USACE Periodic Inspection program has incorporated many other elements into eligibility, including presence of structure encroachments, vegetation, rodent control programs, and more. Although the geometry implies a minimum slope stability factor of safety, this standard is not associated with a level of protection and does not address seismic stability.

♦ **FEMA 100-year (Base Flood) Protection (FEMA 100 Year):** This “insurance” standard, often called the “1 percent annual chance flood” level of protection, is based on criteria established in the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR 65.10) and is often used with established USACE criteria to meet certain freeboard, slope stability, seepage/under-seepage, erosion, and settlement requirements. A 100-year flood event is a flood event that has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Meeting this minimum level of flood protection means that communities will not be required to purchase flood insurance or be subject to building restrictions. This standard generally does not address seismic stability. Very few levees in the Delta meet this standard.

♦ **DWR 200-year Urban Levee Protection (DWR 200 Year):** This standard (currently under development within the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan consistent with recent State legislation) is similar to the FEMA standard because it goes beyond geometric design criteria, but for a 200-year level of flood protection. It is generally based on established USACE criteria. However, unlike USACE criteria, the DWR 200-year Urban Levee Protection requires that seismic stability be addressed. Almost no levees in the Delta meet this standard, and under existing law most would not be required to do so because they do not protect urban areas.

Ecosystem and the Environment (6 questions/comments)

- **Will the Conservancy be involved in the Corps policy of removing vegetation on levees?**

It is not within the purview of the Delta Conservancy to influence the U.S. Corps of Engineers’ (Corps) policy on levee vegetation. The California Department of Water Resources and California Department of Fish and Game have been the lead state agencies involved in discussions with the Corps on their policy on levee vegetation in California. These state agencies will continue to work with the Corps to resolve this conflict.

- **What can be done about the dumping from houseboats and other vessels in the Delta ?**

A common concern the Conservancy has heard is about pollution in the Delta, including illegal dumping in the waterways. Through our strategic plan process we anticipate addressing water quality issues and will work with local residents and agencies to establish criteria, measurements and strategies to address water pollution concerns.

- **We don't want outside groups telling us how to care for our environment.**

The Conservancy is actively seeking input from Delta residents and business owners on strategies to address the known environmental issues in the Delta. Through our strategic planning process we expect to engage Delta residents to help define how best to address key Delta issues related to our 12 mandates, and bring resources to make measured improvements in the Delta. The expectation is that Delta residents will help us define the issues and how we can develop programs or projects to better manage or resolve the issues.

- **Who would want to restore Delta to all tules? It's better to prevent lower Delta from becoming inland salt/sea.**

The overarching goal of ecosystem restoration in the Delta, as defined by the Delta Reform Act, is to restore fish and wildlife to include more viable and resilient populations of native resident and migratory species. It is understood that the historical Delta will not be restored, but that knowledge of the historical Delta is important for understanding key ecosystem features and functions. The Delta Reform Act defines "restoration" as "...the application of ecological principles to restore a degraded or fragmented ecosystem and return it to a condition in which its biological and structural components achieve a close approximation of its natural potential, taking into consideration the physical changes that have occurred in the past and the future impact of climate change and sea level rise" (Water Code section 85066).

- **Let's not talk about climate change – it is a joke. Climate change is not happening.**

In November 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-13-08 that specifically asked the Natural Resources Agency to develop the California Climate Adaptation Strategy, which identifies how state agencies can respond to rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, sea level rise, and extreme natural events. The California Climate Adaptation Strategy recommends that all state agencies responsible for the management and regulation of public health, infrastructure or habitat subject to significant climate change should prepare as appropriate agency-specific adaptation plans, guidance, or criteria by September 2010. In response to this, the Conservancy is developing a climate change policy.

- **What are the pellets being used by the Department of Boating and Waterways in Bethel Island and Discovery Bay?**

On April 12, the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) initiated the 2011 *Egeria densa* treatment season in areas of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). Treatment is scheduled for 8-12 weeks.

Treatment areas for this year include Bethel Island (Taylor and Piper sloughs), Discovery Bay and Franks Tract. Specific treatment days, which may be adjusted based on weather conditions or other factors, include:

Discovery Bay	Tuesday
Bethel Island	Wednesday
Franks Tract	Wednesday

Licensed applicators from DBW will be using a systemic herbicide, Fluridone, for treatment. Extensive studies have proven that application of this herbicide at low, monitored levels is safe to humans, animals, fish and crops.

Fluridone will be sprayed in granular-pellet form from boats via blowers. By design, the pellets enter the water and sink towards the bottom of the plants. Over time, the pellets dissolve releasing the herbicide into the water where the plants then take it into their system. Current flows are calculated in the use and placement of Fluridone, which enables the increased effectiveness of the treatment.

Water samples will be taken on an ongoing basis during the treatment. Results from water monitoring will dictate what types of adjustments are required in application and frequency in order to continue keeping herbicide levels low.

It is important to note that continuous contact of *Egeria densa* with the herbicide is necessary for the treatment to be effective. Therefore removal of the plant by any means by the public is strongly discouraged during the treatment. Also, the public is being asked to sweep any overspray of the pellets that may land on their docks into the water.

Political Strategies (6 questions/comments)

- **Who at the Capitol do we need to set a fire under to get things done?**

This question was referring to the 2010 water bond that did not make it onto the ballot. The Governor and the Legislature, believing the bond could not pass, removed the bond from the 2010 ballot. The next opportunity to move the bond forward will be in 2012, though prospects of the bond passing are not good due to the current political and economic climate. The Conservancy is actively tracking the bond process while also actively seeking other creative ways to bring funding to the Delta.

- **What about grant funding—if there are still dollars left in a grant program, can the Conservancy help with applications past the application deadline (reopen/reapply)?**

(This question refers to a grant not offered by the Conservancy.) Grant deadlines are typically not negotiable and the Conservancy has no authority to extend deadlines for grant processes we do not administer. The Conservancy can, however, help organizations receive grant funding in other ways. We can post on our website available grant opportunities and their timelines; partner with nonprofit organizations to receive federal funding on behalf of nonprofits ineligible to do so; and coordinate and support community organizations with the grant process. For example, in September 2011 the Conservancy offered a free two-day grant proposal writing workshop to potential partner organizations within the Delta.

- **What has changed to put Bethel Island in the primary zone?**

The Delta Conservancy has not been involved in making recommendations for potential changes to the Delta Primary Zone. Resources you can research about changes to the primary zone include the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) Primary Zone Study (Dec. 2010), which includes a recommendation to re-designate Bethel Island as within the Primary Zone. (study available at: http://www.delta.ca.gov/primary_zone.htm) Also, the DPC accepted the final report, but deferred making recommendations for changes pending completion of the Economic Sustainability Plan. Visit <http://www.delta.ca.gov> for more information on the Economic Sustainability Plan. You can also contact the DPC directly.

- **Would the Legislature listen to Conservancy regarding water export? Does it have juice?**

The Conservancy was created with the coequal objectives of being a lead agency for ecosystem restoration and supporting efforts that protect environmental health and the economic well being of Delta residents. Delta flow issues are being addressed by the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and the Delta Stewardship Council. The Conservancy will be a strong voice for sufficient flows and resources to meet our mandates and ensure the ecologic and economic sustainability of the Delta.

- **Explain “legislative amendment language”.**

The question was referring to an agenda item for the Conservancy’s August 17th Board meeting. The Conservancy has recently been working with the Legislature to include amendment language to our enabling legislation. We requested subventions and local assistance grants capability (to fund Delta projects) and that our potential meeting locations expand to include the county facilities of the five Delta counties and the Suisun Marsh. This will allow us to rotate our board meetings and get better public participation from residents throughout the Delta.

- **There seems to be a difference between an urban and rural understanding of the Delta. Can you comment?**

This comment was referring to the general lack of on-the-ground understanding of Delta issues on the part of agencies and ongoing Delta planning efforts. We strongly agree that we need local input in defining how the Conservancy should be structured and operated within the Delta. We welcome and encourage full participation of Delta community members. We intend to come to the Delta at appropriate times and venues that afford the greatest possible local participation. You can [join our list serve](#) to receive dates and locations of upcoming strategic planning workshops in the Delta.

Other (7 questions/comments)

- **Where can we find information about the geographic and natural history of the Delta?**

There are many, many organizations that protect and preserve the Delta's unique heritage. These are largely volunteer-run, community-based organizations. The following list, while not exhaustive, will give you a place to get started:

Isleton Brannan-Andrus Historical Society
Sacramento River Delta Historical Society
Sacramento County Historical Society
California Historical Society
Dutra Museum
Rio Vista Museum
Dai Loy Museum

One of the Conservancy's twelve mandates is to "protect, conserve, and restore the Delta region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical, and living resources". The Conservancy, through the operation of its programs, will look for ways to coordinate with these organizations to centralize and catalogue historical and cultural resources.

- **What are some government organizations that provide grants?**

Many state and federal agencies have grant programs. The federal government has compiled and catalogued its grant funding opportunities in one place: www.grants.gov. State agencies that provide grant opportunities include:

- State Parks
- Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Environmental Protection Agency

- California Arts Council
- Department of Boating & Waterways
- Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency
- Governor's Office of Economic Development
- Department of Social Services
- CalTrans
- Department of Conservation
- Department of Community Services & Development
- Department of Fish & Game
- Department of Education
- Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA)
- California Energy Commission
- Department of Fish & Game
- Wildlife Conservation Board
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Department of Water Resources
- State Library
- Natural Resources Agency

For more information, or assistance in identifying grant opportunities, please contact Conservancy staff at (916) 375-2084.

- **Could a reclamation district attend the grant writing workshop?**

Yes, 24 applicants attended the Conservancy-sponsored Developing Powerful Grant Proposal class on September 13-14, including three applicants representing reclamation districts.

- ***[Delta residents] have done a lot in this community. We used to have mud roads, three automobile agencies, and lots of people, including a stream of cars on Jefferson Blvd. You have no idea what we've accomplished.***
- **We need to fix Highway 84.**

Delta residents have long been self-sufficient, innovative, and independently-minded people. The pioneering spirit of people throughout the generations and from many cultures and backgrounds, combined with their back-breaking work, built the thriving agricultural base of the Delta's economy, an economy that faces many challenges in the coming years.

Perhaps more importantly, there is a sense of community throughout the Delta that centers on getting things done for the community at large. The Conservancy recognizes the importance of community, and hopes to become part of this community by working side-by-side members on

issues and tasks within our mission.

Today's Delta was once just an idea to its forefathers, just as tomorrow's Delta is taking shape in our ideas today. The history of the Delta is full of remarkable achievements and remarkable people; the Conservancy looks forward to being a positive part of that history as well.

Regarding Highway 84, the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) is responsible for maintaining and fixing the state's highways. Information about CalTrans' work on Highway 84 can be found at their website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/>.

- **Do we have a criteria regarding public versus private land?**
- **What is the implication of passing private land to public land, especially when public land is not well managed?**

We anticipate that our Land Ownership & Best Management Practices Workgroup will discuss all issues associated with land ownership and land management in the Delta and will develop goals, objectives and criteria that guide how the Conservancy will make decisions regarding restoration of public and private lands. If you are interested in this topic, please consider joining the workgroup. We recognize there is a long history of public land management within the Delta and will strive to ensure that sufficient funding for long term operations, maintenance and monitoring is included in all projects associated with the Conservancy. For more information please contact Conservancy staff at (916) 375-2084.

Attachment 8.1C Memo to CSU-Sacramento Executive Fellows Program



SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY

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Delta Protection Commission

Date: August 23, 2011

To: Mark Grisby, Director
Executive Fellows Program, CSU-Sacramento

From: Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Subject: Proposed Group Project for Executive Fellows
Academic Work

Thank you for the meeting last week to discuss the possibility of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) being the recipient/subject of a group project conducted by the CSU-Sacramento Executive Fellows Program participants. To confirm my understanding of this effort, the Executive Fellows Program is looking for suitable projects that will give its participants (6-9 in a group) a substantive work experience that results in an end-of-term deliverable that is also relevant and useful to the subject agency for which they would be completing the work. This group project is extra curricular to the groups' individual fellowships and the completed work would constitute a part of their academic grade.

As we discussed last week, the Conservancy proposes its "Policy Development Research Unit" as a potential group project that would mutually benefit both programs.

The Policy Development Research Unit would investigate up to three (3) policy issues relevant to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. Their research efforts would include conducting literature searches to identify existing relevant policies; interviewing key officials or

stakeholders to determine existing conditions and desired policy changes; developing metrics, criteria, and a list of potential financing needs and resources; and providing recommendations regarding potential legislation. The final deliverable will be an oral presentation at the Conservancy's Board (or Subcommittee) meeting in May 2012; milestone deliverables include a white paper (no more than 30 pages) for each of the policy issues selected.

Two topics of interest to the Conservancy are (1) law enforcement issues related to public access to lands adjacent to private property as well as enforcement issues related to recreational use of Delta levees, roads and waterways and (2) partnership opportunities for the Conservancy with the Delta Protection Commission to complete the Great Delta Trail bike trail that would connect the Bay Area bike trail with the American River Bike Trail. A third issue could be decided by the Conservancy and the unit as it reviews the results of several Delta stakeholder meetings.

The Conservancy proposes this simplified work plan to indicate key milestones:

December: Meet with unit to confirm work projects and develop work plan
January: Unit members conduct research and interviews; meets with Policy Subcommittee
February: Present outlines of the white papers to the Policy Subcommittee
March: Present first draft of the white papers to the Policy Subcommittee
April: Revise and complete all the white papers; provide copies to the Policy Subcommittee
May: Present summary and recommendations to the Policy Subcommittee or full Board (depending upon Board's schedule)

Myself and Nancy Ullrey, program manager, will be available to assist the unit with direction, feedback, and review of their on-going work as they complete the project.

We believe that this project will provide benefit to both the participants in the Executive Fellows program and the Conservancy.

If you have additional questions about this proposal, please contact me at (916) 375-2089 or Nancy Ullrey at (916) 375-2087.